



Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County

Prince Edward County, Virginia, 1951

Cast: (5 student parts)

A Reporter (court staff)

Barbara Johns: 16 year old high school student who led the strike

Carrie : another student

NAACP lawyer

Student in the Audience to read definition of NAACP

The Judge

Reporter: I'm here at Morton high school with Barbara Johns, a 16 year old student at the school. Barbara is leading 450 of her fellow classmates at Morton in a protest. Barbara, why are you doing this?

Barbara: Morton is an 8-room school that was built for only 180 students. There are 450 of us in the school. We don't have a gym, or a cafeteria or classes like typing or shop, but the white high school does.

Reporter: Do you think anyone will help you out?

Carrie: Barbara and I wrote a letter to the NAACP asking them to help us.

Reporter: (to the audience) Do you know what the NAACP is?

Student in the Audience: (stand and read definition from card) The NAACP is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It was founded in 1909 with the goal of helping blacks to reach equality. By the 1940s they were focusing lot of energy into helping black students get equality in education.

NAACP Lawyer: I'm from the NAACP office in Washington DC, we helped start a lawsuit against the Prince Edward County School Board. Even before this case went to trial the school board had started spending more money on black schools.

Reporter: Let's hear what the judge decided about Morton high school.

Judge: The court orders that the Prince Edward County School Board keep spending the money needed to make the white and black schools more equal. But, they can still keep separate black and white schools.

This material was prepared as a part of the Indiana Supreme Court's "Courts in the Classroom" project. For more information and materials concerning the re-enactment of the cases surrounding Brown v. Board of Education, or for other curriculum materials, please contact Elizabeth Osborn, Asst. to the Chief Justice for Court History and Public Education at eosborn@courts.state.in.us or visit our website www.in.gov/judiciary/citc.